



# Grant County Health Department

111 South Jefferson Street  
Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813  
Phone: (608) 723-6416 • Fax: (608) 723-6501

## **Grant County Health Department can provide the following services:**

- Information/consultation on flood clean up (free)
- Information on health concerns associated with flooding (free)
- Information on mold cleanup (free)
- Environmental Health consultations (free)
- Tetanus booster immunization (free, as needed)
- Private well bacteria testing (free, private wells only, well must have been impacted by flooding, must use proper forms and bottles from health department, limited time only)

Please contact us at:

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<http://www.co.grant.wi.gov>

### **General Information**

#### **Mold**

Many people are allergic to mold. Young children, the elderly, and people with asthma and/or other medical issues can be affected by mold and may have serious illnesses as a result of mold exposure. The following recommendations should be considered:

- Discard any porous item (furniture, drywall, carpeting, insulation...) that was wet for more than 2 days/48 hours.
- Get rid of any drywall that was wet for more than 48 hours, even if it looks OK on the outside.
- Sewage may back flow from your septic or a municipal system through floor drains, toilets, etc. Any affected areas, such as basements, must be cleaned and disinfected, as with a chlorine solution. Anything that cannot be cleaned with bleach such as carpeting and furniture should be thrown out.
- Brief cleaning instructions: use Bleach solution (1 cup bleach per gallon water), follow with soap and water, scrubbing, finally, run fans and a dehumidifier in the area to dry it out completely before repairing or re-occupying

Inspect for mold growth through out the house, including attics, basements and crawlspaces.

## Water Concerns

- Do not use water from a private well that has been or is flooded. If you are not certain about the safety of your water supply you should have the well tested for bacteria.
- Drink bottled water or water from a known, safe, source. If necessary, you can make bacteria contaminated water safe to drink by boiling the water for five minutes. Boiling DOES NOT WORK for nitrates or chemical contamination.
- When in doubt, if the water is CLOUDY, ODOROUS, COLORED - DO NOT DRINK THE WATER!
- Do NOT swim or bathe in rivers, streams, creeks, or lakes in flooded areas!

## Personal Protective Equipment

- Be sure to wear boots, gloves, and eye protection while working or cleaning in flood damaged areas.
- If generating dust from work, use a dust mask. If going in a week after flooding, then use an N95 respirator.
- If you're just mucking out mud and cutting out drywall or pumping water, it's all wet – no need for a respirator.
- Individuals must be medically able to wear a respirator. If you have a pre-existing condition, you need to talk to your physician.
- If you have a respiratory issue, do outdoor cleanup only.
- Be sure to wash your hands frequently and before eating and drinking.

## Food Safety

- When in doubt, do not eat suspicious food.
- Do not eat any food that may have come into contact with flood water. Discard any food that is not in a waterproof container if there is any chance that it has come into contact with flood water.
- Undamaged, commercially canned foods can be saved if you remove the can labels, wash the cans, and then disinfect them with a solution consisting of six ounces of bleach to one gallon of water. Re-label your cans, including the expiration date, with a marker.
- Food containers with screw-caps, snap-lids, crimped caps (soda pop bottles), twist caps, flip tops, and home canned foods should be discarded if they have come into contact with flood water because they cannot be disinfected.
- **For infants, use ONLY pre-prepared canned baby formula that requires no added water, rather than powdered formulas prepared with treated water.**

If your refrigerator or freezer has been without power for a period of time, all stored items should be carefully checked. Perishable food left at room temperature for more than two hours should be discarded. Frozen foods